

Chairman Thomas Reynolds called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. in the BELD Board Room. Those present at the meeting included Chairman Reynolds, Secretary James Regan and General Manager William G. Bottiggi, all of BELD. Vice Chairman Anthony Agnitti arrived at 5:04 p.m.

I. Minutes of Prior Meetings

i. July 13, 2022 Open Meeting

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, to accept the minutes of May 24, 2022 Open Meeting as written. Mr. Reynolds stepped down and seconded. So voted.

II. Items for Action

i. BHS Dance Team Advertising

ii. Braintree Youth Football & Cheer Advertising

These two items were considered at the same time. There was discussion on mass mailings and what was being charged for each type of advertising. After consideration of the offerings it was:

Voted: on motion of Mr. Agnitti, seconded by Mr. Regan, to not advertise with the BHS Dance Team and the Braintree Youth Football & Cheer.

III. Items for Discussion

i. Watson Gas Turbine Upgrade Status

Mr. Bottiggi reported that Unit 1's turbine came back from Montreal two weeks ago and is in our warehouse. He continued this Saturday is the start of the outage to put Unit 2's turbine on its way to Montreal and to put the upgraded Unit 1 turbine in Unit 2. He reminded everyone that Unit 1 has a leased engine in it currently. Unit 2's turbine, once back, will go into Unit 1's turbine spot and the leased one will be returned. Once upgraded it is good for 25,000 hours or 4,000 starts. It will take about 10 days for the outage. The filters in the intake boxes are being replaced as well as part of the outage. There was discussion.

ii. Watson Ten Minute Non Spinning Reserve (TMNSR)

Mr. Bottiggi reported that this is the market that we try to get in every year. There are 2 periods: June to September and October to May and we cleared both. We made 40% of \$2.5 million in the first period and this one we should get 40% of \$2 million. We do well with this usually – maybe not perfect but well.

iii. MBTA Bus Maintenance Facility Update

Mr. Bottiggi informed the Board that this project is still moving along. There are calls with the MBTA and the National Grid teams every few weeks. We have installed conduit in front of St. Thomas More church. We have done this because the Town is rebuilding Hawthorne with new sidewalks and we didn't want to be digging the road up after they were done. The only possible problem is: they tell us 42 million kwh is what they are going to use but we have to make sure we

can buy that power and if we sign a contract for that much power and then they change their mind. So, we need to get legal involved so that BELD is not exposed. There was discussion.

iv. Mystic Station Cost of Service Agreement

Mr. Bottiggi explained that Unit 7 of the Mystic Station has been retired and Units 8 and 9 are the new units. Constellation owns them and they put in retirement notices to the ISO-NE that they want to retire those units and it would have been effective this past June. They essentially strong-armed ISO-NE to get more money. Based on their negotiations with ISO Units 8 & 9 have a Reliability Must Run Agreement – or a Cost of Service Agreement for 2 years starting June 1, 2022. BELD, along with Attorney Coyle, has been fighting this. Mystic was looking for an estimated \$40 million to just be there. Attorney Coyle spent \$150,000 on legal fees but he has cut our obligation by \$530,000 so money well spent. The billing has started but the billing is all over the place: Rose said we got billed \$37,000 in June and \$131,000 in July and this is going to go on for 2 years.

Mr. Bottiggi commented we are starting our budget process in October and we may have to have small rate increase for next year. There was discussion on TV coverage on the rising costs of everything. National Grid is going to \$0.47.9 a kilowatt hour – we are at \$0.14 kwh. There was further discussion. Mr. Bottiggi will report back to the Board on the budget and the possible small rate increase at the December board meeting. If we do have to have a small rate increase we will announce it in January and then it will take effect in February. We did a ½ cent last year.

v. Former Carter Rice Building

Mr. Bottiggi said this project is moving ahead – the name of the company is Flower Xpress. They are a medical marijuana growing facility and bitcoin mining facility. They will be a huge customer of BELD's. There was discussion on the low electric rates, the great location and the fact that this building has been empty for years.

vi. Battery/Energy Storage Unit

Mr. Bottiggi reported that BELD has been trying to develop another battery storage – like Station 9. We have been working with Convergent for a couple of years and getting closer. We are trying to put in a 5 megawatt, 3 hour battery storage unit for peak shaving, which is what we use our existing one for. The hardest thing is finding a spot for it - you need 10,000 square feet. We thought we had a deal with St. Catherine's but are in negotiations now so we are not sure. There was discussion – we want to stay within Station 8 or 10 areas. Other areas were discussed.

IV. Personnel Update

None.

V. Old Business (As Determined/Needed)

None.

VI. New Business (As Determined/Needed)

Mr. Bottiggi said he had a few items for new business.

i. Silver Blaze

Mr. Bottiggi explained that the new billing portal is being slowly rolled out. The issue that some people are having is that when you switch from the old portal to the new one you cannot bring your bank or credit card information over for security reasons. So people have to recreate an account and log in and add their payment information. Mr. Bottiggi said we have been doing this for 2 weeks now and have 2,000 customers that are using My Electric which is through Silver Blaze. It consolidates a lot of information. Ms. Cohen will be at the October meeting to do a demonstration. We have 700 people on auto-pay. We have 5,000 customers who get an e-bill, not a paper bill.

ii. Podways

Mr. Bottiggi had sent an email to the Board on this. He explained that he has now met with the company and it's a monorail that the podways would run on. They want to put 35 miles of the rail around Braintree; there would be 350 stations and 80% of the Town would be within a 3 minute walk to one of their stations. You would pay with an app, all the major routes in Braintree would have this and it would be powered with solar arrays. The company has offered to come in to give a presentation to the Board. Mr. Bottiggi explained to them that this is not for BELD to decide – it would be the Town's decision. There was discussion: if the Town decides that they would like to pursue this then we can see about a presentation and possibly include the Town Council if they are interested.

iii. Oil Procurement

Mr. Bottiggi reported that we bought 100,000 gallons of oil for Watson. It cost \$3.42 per gallon up from \$1.80 per gallon we paid last time. We were down about 400,000 gallons and this seems like it will be a bad winter. There was discussion.

iv. Summer of 23, 24, 25

Mr. Bottiggi also reported that we bought power for the summers of 2023, 2024 and 2025 for \$70 per megawatt hour. We are now hedged for next summer at 85%, 80% for 2024 and 75% for 2025. There was discussion about National Grid's electric rate.

v. Mutual Aid – Florida

Mr. Bottiggi told the Board that we have sent 2 crews of 2 linemen to Florida. There are 25,000 linemen headed for Florida, waiting for the storm. It looks like it will be a bad storm.

vi. Public Power Week

Mr. Bottiggi reported that Public Power Week is coming up – October 3-7, 2022. He continued we are doing the annual Senior Breakfast at the Senior Center. As usual, there will be 2 seatings. Mr. Bottiggi will be attending to give the seniors an update on BELD.

VII. Public Participation (As Determined/Needed)

None.

VIII. Tabled Items

None.

IX. Next Regular Meeting – Upcoming Meetings

i. October 11, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

There was discussion on possible dates for the November meeting.

X. Executive Session (As Determined/Needed)

Not needed.

XI. Adjournment

Voted: on motion of Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Agnitti, to adjourn the meeting at 6:02 p.m. So voted.

James P. Regan
Secretary